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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Traffic Safety Measure Passes Legislature, Awaits Governor's Signature**

**De Pere, WI:** State Representative André Jacques (R-De Pere) applauded yesterday's unanimous passage by the State Senate of Assembly Bill 28, also offered by Sen. Rob Cowles (R-Allouez), which provides that traffic signals affected by power outages would be treated as a 4 way stop unless a traffic control officer is on the scene to provide other direction. The legislation, which previously passed the State Assembly on a unanimous vote, now moves to the Governor for his expected signature. The bill was drafted at the suggestion of former Green Bay Police Department Capt. Joe Deuster, and was strongly recommended by law enforcement and supported by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation throughout the hearing process.

"I have had officers recount numerous vehicles traveling through malfunctioning intersections at high rates of speed, and they believe strongly that this legislation will prevent future traffic fatalities," said Jacques, noting that enactment of the legislation will provide legal clarity and assist law enforcement during incidents of widespread outages by allowing them to focus their emergency response and officer-involved traffic control efforts on the highest traffic intersections.

AB 28 is similar to both recent and longstanding laws enacted in several other states which are recognized as a best practice by traffic engineers. The proposal is essentially identical to current law in several Midwestern states such as Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio as well as larger states like Pennsylvania, Florida, California and New York, among at least 17 states which already have such a statute in place. Transportation departments in those states have used both traditional and social media efforts, PSAs, and inclusion in state drivers' manuals and DOT written exams to educate the public to exercise extreme caution during widespread power outages since police can't possibly direct traffic at all intersections.

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